



Western Australia at a Glance 2010



Western Australia had an estimated population of 2,236,901 in June 2009, accounting for 10.2% of Australia’s population.

Western Australia has the largest land area (2,532,400 sq km) of any Australian State or Territory. Its coastline of 12,500km amounts to 34% of Australia’s total coastline.

The State’s capital, Perth, was founded on 12 August 1829 and contains almost three quarters (73%) of Western Australia’s total population.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN RELATION TO AUSTRALIA

	% of Australian total
Area	32.9
Coastline	34.0
Demography	
Estimated resident population (June 2009)	10.2
Labour force	
Employed persons (December 2009)	10.8
Unemployed persons (December 2009)	9.1
International Trade (Value)	
Imports (2008-09)	15.1
Exports (2008-09)	37.6



PEOPLE

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (June)¹

	2008	2009
	'000	'000
Males	1 099.4	1 135.2
Females	1 071.8	1 101.7
Persons	2 171.2	2 237.0
under 15 years	427.9	438.5
15-19 years	152.7	155.5
20-29 years	312.0	329.1
30-39 years	314.2	321.7
40-49 years	319.1	325.7
50-59 years	277.3	283.3
60-64 years	109.7	115.2
65 years and over	258.4	267.9

WA Statistical Divisions

Perth	1 602.6	na
South West	236.1	na
Lower Great Southern	57.4	na
Upper Great Southern	18.9	na
Midlands	54.6	na
South Eastern	58.1	na
Central	63.4	na
Pilbara	46.0	na
Kimberley	34.2	na

¹ Preliminary estimates based on 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

DEMOGRAPHY

	2007	2008
	no.	no.
Live births	29 164	31 850
Deaths	12 283	12 752
Marriages	12 290	12 367
Divorces	4 932	4 718
Crude rate (per 1,000 persons)¹		
Births	13.8	14.7
Deaths	5.8	5.9
Marriages	5.8	5.7
Divorces	2.3	2.2

¹ Based on mean estimated resident population at 30 June.

CENSUS POPULATION (Proportion of WA total)¹

	2001 %	2006 %
Birthplace		
Australia	67.7	65.3
United Kingdom	11.1	10.6
New Zealand	2.5	2.4
South Africa	0.8	1.1
Italy	1.3	1.1
Religious affiliation		
Catholic	24.8	23.7
Anglican	22.6	20.4
Other religious affiliation	32.9	33.0
No religious affiliation	19.7	22.9

¹ Census of Population and Housing. Based on place of usual residence.

EDUCATION

	2008 no.	2009 no.
Full time students		
Government	230 947	233 499
Non-government	118 710	122 356
Schools		
Government	768	771
Non-government	297	296
International students (Non-permanent education arrivals)		
Malaysia	5 135	7 184
China	4 353	5 936
Singapore	5 742	5 782
Indonesia	3 068	3 507
Other countries	27 628	29 447
All international students	45 926	51 856

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (August)¹

	2009 \$
Males	1 421.1
Females	1 077.4
Persons	1 305.9

¹ Full time adult ordinary time earnings, Trend.

LABOUR MARKET (December)¹

	2008	2009
	'000	'000
Employed persons	1 173.1	1 169.4
Unemployed persons	39.6	62.7
Total labour force	1 212.7	1 232.1
	%	%
Unemployment rate	3.3	5.1
	'000	'000
Largest employing industries²		
Retail Trade	130.4	126.6
Construction	124.3	125.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	114.3	114.0
Education and Training	78.3	97.4

1 Trend

2 Original

LABOUR MOBILITY AND INTENTIONS

EMPLOYED, NOT WORKING IN FIELD OF HIGHEST QUALIFICATION, MAIN REASON

	2007/08
	Persons '000
No jobs available in field	25.0
Sought better pay	29.5
Lack of career prospects	15.2
Dissatisfied with job	24.7
Wanted a change	58.3
Family, personal or ill health	25.3
Still studying / just finished studying	10.8
Other	22.1
Total	210.9

ECONOMY

STATE ACCOUNTS

	2007/08	2008/09
	\$m	\$m
Gross State Product ¹	155 449	156 603
	\$	\$
Gross State Product per capita ¹	72 706	71 052
	%	%
Largest contributing industries²		
Mining	26.7	25.9
Construction	9.8	9.6
Manufacturing	8.2	7.8

1 Chain volume measures

2 Current prices

HOUSE PRICE INDEX¹

	2007/08	2008/09
	%	%
Established homes	1.0	-5.5
Project homes	3.2	3.2

1 Percentage change from previous financial year.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX¹

	2007/08	2008/09
	%	%
Food	4.3	4.7
Alcohol and tobacco	4.1	5.6
Clothing and footwear	-0.9	-1.7
Housing	4.7	5.6
Household contents and services	-0.7	2.2
Health	5.4	5.3
Transportation	4.7	-1.3
Communication	0.3	0.8
Recreation	2.0	0.5
Education	7.8	6.6
Financial and insurance services	5.6	2.7
All groups	3.6	3.1

1 Percentage change from previous financial year.

ECONOMY

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	2007/08	2008/09
	\$m	\$m
Imports	27 343	33 097
Exports	68 843	86 880
Imports from:		
Singapore	3 506	4 321
Japan	2 972	2 591
United Kingdom	2 600	3 552
Exports to:		
China	17 428	26 140
Japan	13 046	17 352
Republic of Korea	5 902	7 253
Major commodities exported:		
Iron ore	20 025	33 529
Gold bullion	12 018	16 848
Crude petroleum oils	9 179	7 863

INDUSTRY

RETAIL TRADE¹

	2007/08	2008/09
	\$m	\$m
Food	9 635	10 277
Department stores	2 057	2 059
Clothing, footwear & personal accessories	2 185	2 029
Household goods	4 968	4 665
Other retailing	2 768	2 917
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	3 020	3 162
Total²	24 601	25 116

¹ Retail turnover in current prices, Trend.

² Component items may not sum to the total due to rounding.

BUILDING

	2007/08	2008/09
	no.	no.
New residential building		
Approved	23 402	19 270
Completed	23 213	21 975
Average value of new residential building	\$	\$
Approved	283 198	262 457
Completed	242 786	284 862
Total value of non-residential building	\$m	\$m
Approved	5 447.2	2 886.5
Completed	3 275.3	3 820.7

MINING

		2007/08	2008/09
Production¹			
Iron ore	('000t)	313 505	341 543
Gold	(t)	143	140
Crude oil	(ML)	18 011	18 904
Exploration expenditure		\$	\$
Minerals		1 259.8	1 246.8
Petroleum		2 174.9	2 945.1

¹ Source: Australian Mineral Statistics 2009,
Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

AGRICULTURE

		2007/08	2008/09
Crop production			
Wheat for grain	('000t)	5 996	8 161
Barley for grain	('000t)	2 814	2 808
Livestock numbers			
Sheep and lambs	('000)	18 403	15 516
Meat cattle	('000)	2 138	1 997

TOURISM

	2007/08	2008/09
Short term overseas holiday travel	no.	no.
Resident departures	425 096	472 599
Visitor arrivals	243 346	235 792
Holiday arrivals - country of origin	%	%
United Kingdom and Ireland	25.0	23.9
Singapore	16.4	17.7
Rest of Europe	14.6	14.1
Holiday departures - main destination	%	%
Indonesia	24.6	30.9
Thailand	15.0	11.7
Singapore	8.8	7.5

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE

	Mean daily temperature				Mean annual rainfall
	Summer (January)		Winter (July)		(mm)
	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	
Perth (Metro)	30.8	17.8	18.3	7.8	751.4
Albany	22.8	15.1	15.7	8.1	931.7
Broome	33.4	26.1	27.9	14.1	574.9
Bunbury	29.4	15.1	17.2	7.2	743.3
Esperance	26.1	15.6	17.1	8.3	621.6
Geraldton (Town)	29.1	18.4	19.8	10.5	448.9
Kalgoorlie/Boulder (Airport)	33.6	18.2	16.7	5.0	264.8
Mandurah	29.3	16.9	17.3	8.6	882.2
Port Hedland	36.4	25.5	27.1	12.3	311.9

Source: Bureau of Meteorology 2009, Bureau of Meteorology, Perth, <<http://www.bom.gov.au>>.

SOURCES OF ENERGY IN DWELLINGS - 2008

	'000
Mains electricity	826.8
Mains gas	563.3
LPG/bottled gas	157.4
Wood	144.2
Solar	180.4
Oil	*7.1
Other	*2.0
Total dwellings (a)	826.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
(a) Totals do not equal the sum of items in each column as more than one source of energy may be specified.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°C	degrees Celsius	%	per cent
\$	dollars	sq km	square kilometres
km	kilometres	'000	thousand
mm	millimetres	t	tonnes
WA	Western Australia	no.	number
\$m	million dollars	ML	megalitres
na	not available		

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PHONE

1300 135 070

EMAIL

client.services@abs.gov.au

FAX

1300 135 211

WEB ADDRESS

www.abs.gov.au

POST

Client Services, ABS
GPO Box 796
Sydney NSW 2001

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